



California ISO

# Briefing on the status of interconnection process enhancements and the interconnection queue

Bob Emmert, Senior Manager, Interconnection Resources

Danielle Mills, Principal, Infrastructure Policy Development

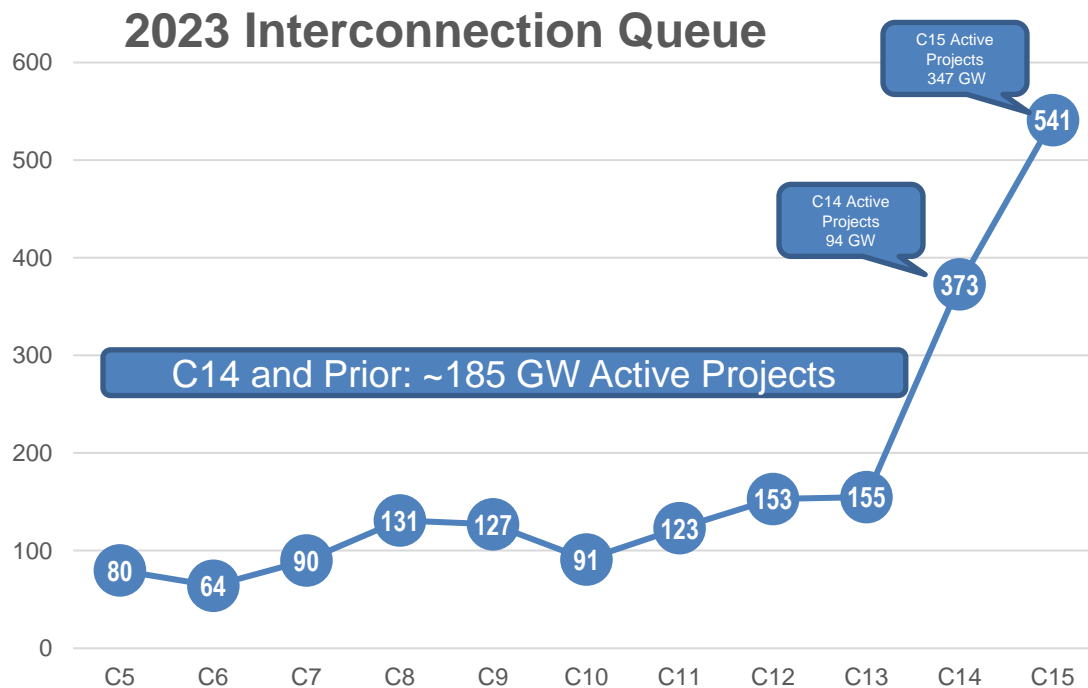
ISO Board of Governors meeting

General Session

July 23, 2025

# Clusters 14 and 15 called for transformational changes to the ISO's interconnection process

- CPUC resource portfolios calling for up to 7,000 MW of new nameplate capacity per year.
- Interconnection requests skyrocketed in Clusters 14 & 15



- High volumes of requests in areas not calling for new capacity in state resource plans
- Cluster 15 vastly exceeded expectations
- With Cluster 15, the ISO queue exceeded three times the capacity of that which will be needed to achieve California's 2045 policy requirements

# Status of interconnection process enhancements 2023 & FERC Order No. 2023 interconnection reforms

- Track 2 reforms: **Approved by FERC September 2024**
  - Addressed transformational changes needed to the interconnection request intake process.
  - Fully implemented with cluster 15 resubmissions.
- Order No. 2023 compliance: **Approved by FERC May 2025**
  - Established foundation for interconnection reform with specific study milestones and requirements.
- Track 3 reforms 1<sup>st</sup> filing: **Approved by FERC June 2025**
  - Established a process for more mature projects to move forward more quickly through an intra-cluster prioritization.
- Track 3 reforms 2<sup>nd</sup> FERC filing: To be filed in 2026
  - Established transmission deliverability allocation process modifications to be implemented in 2027 allocation cycle.

# The reformed ISO interconnection request intake process reduced cluster 15 to a more manageable level

Cluster 15 Process	Number of requests	Total Plant Capability (GW)
Initial Interconnection Requests (2023 window)	541	347
Resubmissions (2024 window)	255	118
<i>Percent Reduction: Initial to Resubmissions</i>	<i>53%</i>	<i>66%</i>
<b>Projects proceeding to validation</b> (following project scoring and ranking)	177	96
<b>Projects proceeding to studies</b> (includes project withdrawals prior to the start of studies)	<b>145</b>	<b>68</b>
<i>Percent Reduction: Resubmission to Study</i>	<i>43%</i>	<i>42%</i>
<b>Precent reduction OVERALL</b>	<b>73%</b>	<b>80%</b>

- One-third of projects advancing in the queue are Energy Only.

Current capacity in the ISO queue is sufficient to meet needs well into the future

ISO Queue Resource Capacity by Type (GW)					
	Project Capacity that have Completed the Study Process			Projects in Studies	
Type	Active thru Cluster 13	Active Cluster 14	Total	Cluster 15 Studies done Q4, 2026	Total
Battery	43	55	98	28	126.0
Compressed Air Storage	-	-	0	0.5	0.5
Natural Gas	1	-	1	-	1.0
Pumped-Storage hydro	1	3	4	0.1	4.1
Solar	23	23	46	38	84.0
Wind Turbine	8	2	10	1.6	11.6
Other	0.1	0.1	0.2	0.01	0.2
<b>Total Plant Capacity</b>	<b>76.1</b>	<b>83.1</b>	<b>159.2</b>	<b>68.2</b>	<b>227.4</b>

## The ISO will launch interconnection process enhancements 5.0 initiative in August 2025

- During IPE 2023 the ISO agreed to monitor and revisit several elements of the process in the next IPE initiative.
  - Elements of IPE 2023 track 2 where the ISO committed to monitor and revisit the interconnection request intake process.
  - Policy items raised but not finalized in 2023 IPE track 3.
  - Additional suggestions from stakeholders.
  - Issues the ISO identified during the cluster 15 implementation of the 2023 IPE reforms.
- An IPE 5.0 scoping document has been posted, and the ISO is seeking stakeholder comments.

# Next Steps: Interconnection Process Enhancements 5.0

<b>Current Schedule</b>	<b>Interconnection Process Enhancements 5.0 2025-2026 Schedule</b>
<b>07/09/2025</b>	Scoping Document Posting
<b>08/01/2025</b>	Straw Proposal Posting
<b>10/13/2025</b>	Draft Final Proposal Posting
<b>12/22/2025</b>	Final Proposal Posting
<b>03/05/2026</b>	Board of Governors Meeting (Decision)
<b>10/01/2026</b>	Cluster 16 Window

## In Summary

- Recent interconnection reforms effectively reduced cluster 15 to a more manageable volume.
- The ISO will continue to monitor the process for additional trends and will consider changes to the process as necessary.
- IPE 5.0 will explore key issues identified in IPE 2023.
  - The ISO will initiate IPE 5.0 in August of 2025 and plans to bring the item to the Board for decision by March of 2026.